

Message

From: Ferrell, Mark [Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/21/2019 7:07:22 PM
To: Rice, Robert [Robert.Rice@wv.gov]; Ed Maguire [edward.f.maguire@wv.gov]
Subject: Re: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

Guys, I'm following up with Dennis Matlock and other on this end. In the meantime, here are responses to questions from the Wheeling intelligencer we released to them this morning. I think they help address to some degree any questions about DEP/EPA response - we're pretty clear that both agencies have been on the job for nearly a year.

Question 1: Could you explain what work the EPA has done in Paden City so far?

EPA Response: Since April 2018, EPA has been coordinating with the West Virginia DEP to conduct groundwater sampling around the former dry cleaning facility, Band Box Cleaners. The sampling will be used to identify the plume and direction of groundwater flow. It will also help determine whether Band Box is the only contributor to contamination. EPA has already disposed of contaminated soil that was accumulated during the drilling process.


Question 2: What steps need to be taken moving forward?

EPA Response: EPA and WVDEP will continue work on identifying the plume and direction of groundwater flow. Once the source and plume are identified, EPA will coordinate with WV DEP to review options on how to address the PCE. Options could include upgrading water treatment, installing extraction wells and/or removing contaminated soil. However, it is too early to draw conclusions on the best way to address the issue.

Question 3: How concerned should residents be about this excess contamination? Are there any extra steps they should take or is the water generally safe?

EPA Response: All health related questions to should be directed to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office Communications and Government Relations
seneca.roy@epa.gov

(215) 814-5567 

From: Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:34 PM

To: Ferrell, Mark

Subject: RE: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

Thanks. We will call at 2.

From: Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:17 PM

To: Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov>

Subject: Re: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

Sure. (304) 421-5480📞

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2019, at 1:07 PM, Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov> wrote:

2pm work for you?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2019, at 12:39 PM, Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov> wrote:

Rob, I have a 1:30 appt but the rest of my day is pretty open whenever you'd like to talk.

~Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2019, at 6:23 PM, Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov> wrote:

Mark,

Please see article below. What have you heard on your end regarding this? Would you have time for a brief call tomorrow?

Thanks

Rob

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Huggins, William"

<William.Huggins@wv.gov>

Date: March 20, 2019 at 2:29:50 PM EDT

To: "Rice, Robert" <Robert.Rice@wv.gov>,

"Korbini, Casey E" <Casey.E.Korbini@wv.gov>

Cc: "Fletcher, Terry A" <Terry.A.Fletcher@wv.gov>,


"Joins, Rusty T" <Rusty.T.Joins@wv.gov>,
"McDougal, Jason S" <Jason.S.McDougal@wv.gov>
**Subject: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden
City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity**

I forwarded this to Jake McDougal earlier so he may have already passed this article to you. Just making sure everyone is aware of it. Please see below.

Note I have a call with the Shaffer Equipment RPM until 3:30PM, but will be available to discuss afterward.

Thanks

Bill

304-382-7712  mobile

Paden City Residents Deserve Transpare ncy, Clarity

**March 20, 2019
Wetzel Chronicle**

Numerical values
aside, the fact
remains that Paden
City's drinking water
contains an excess of
a dry cleaning
chemical considered
by the EPA to be
"most likely
carcinogenic to
humans."

However, when considering the numbers, it is argued that someone's odds of getting cancer from PCE in their drinking water would increase by one in 1 million if they consumed 17 parts per billion of the chemical over a lifetime, according to the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Furthermore, the concentration of PCE in Paden City's water supply is 5.5 parts per billion. The maximum allowable contaminant level for the chemical set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 5 parts per billion. Paden City residents have been given these facts though, over and over. If they didn't attend the March 4 council meeting, when a letter was read by Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser stating the above-mentioned information, then they might have heard such from someone who did attend the council meeting. Or, perhaps they read the story when the Wetzel Chronicle released our news coverage

from the meeting on our website that week. Or, perhaps they read the information the following week when each Paden City water customer received a memo-type correspondence, without a date or signature, stating the information. The news then broke regional, and even nationwide. Still, we feel that Paden City residents are looking for more. Browsing social media, and the comments in response to this news story, we can confidently state that residents ARE looking for more than just an impersonal letter or the repetition of information from governmental agencies. Is that water safe to drink? Is the water safe to use for bathing? Are children at a higher risk of ill affects from drinking water contaminated with PCE? What about pets? Do animals have a different reaction to drinking water contaminated with PCE? Why were residents informed about this in March, when it's been reported that

the city found
contamination at one
of its wells about six
months ago?

We recommend a
town meeting which
includes
representatives from
the local, state, and
federal levels.

We recommend
complete
transparency and
clarity. The people of
Paden City deserve
this.